

application as follows:

In the Claims:

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Please cancel claims 1-5 and 8, without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter recited in these claims in one or more patent applications filed in the future.

REMARKS

In the March 5, 2001 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-5 and 8, directed to an antigen composition comprising a stabilizing agent; and
- II. Claims 6, 7, and 9-11, directed to a vaccine composition and a method of vaccination.

The Examiner stated that the aforementioned two groups of claims define distinct inventions. The Examiner stated that the antigen composition of Group I contains different components than the vaccine composition of Group II "such as a fluid fraction and stabilization agent". The Examiner further stated that the vaccine composition comprises an adjuvant whereas Group I does not. The Examiner asserted that the compositions of claims of I and II have different modes of operation and effects and that therefore the inventions recited in the claims of I and II are unrelated.

In response, applicants first note that the vaccine compositions of the claims of Group II can contain a fluid fraction and stabilization agent, like the compositions of the claims of Group I. Nonetheless, applicants elect, without traverse and without prejudice, claims 6, 7 and 9-11 of Group II. Applicants reserve their right to pursue the subject matter of claims 1-5 and 8 in one or more future filed applications. Applicants have herein above cancelled claims 1-5 and 8 accordingly.